

192. The method of claim 187, wherein said method further comprises allocating said I/O resources between background processing activities and delivery of said continuous media data.

193. The method of claim 187, wherein said managing comprises at least one of performing I/O admission control, determining read-ahead size, or a combination thereof.

194. The method of claim 193, wherein said managing comprises performing said I/O admission control by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one storage device or group of storage devices, and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers; and determining whether or not a capacity of said system is sufficient to support at least one additional viewer based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space.

195. The method of claim 193, wherein said managing comprises determining said read-ahead size by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices, and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers; setting a cycle time based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space; and determining a number of read ahead data blocks based at least in part on said cycle time, said monitored data consumption rate, and a size of said data blocks.

196. The method of claim 193, wherein said managing comprises performing said I/O admission control by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one

storage device or group of storage devices, and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers; and determining whether or not a capacity of said system is sufficient to support at least one additional viewer based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space; and

wherein said managing further comprises determining said read-ahead size by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices, and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers; setting a cycle time based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space; and determining a number of read ahead data blocks based at least in part on said cycle time, said monitored data consumption rate, and a size of said data blocks.

197. The method of claim 187, wherein individual storage devices of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices comprise storage disk drives; and wherein said one or more monitored I/O system performance characteristics comprise at least one of seek and rotation latency, estimated transfer rate, or a combination thereof.

198. The method of claim 177, wherein said method further comprises validating an estimated value of at least one of said system I/O performance characteristics by comparing a **first** monitored value of at least one system I/O performance characteristic to the estimated value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic.

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199. The method of claim 198, wherein said method further comprises determining a value of one or more of said system I/O performance characteristics using said first monitored value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic and a second monitored value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic if said first monitored value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic differs from said estimated value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic.

200. The method of claim 198, wherein said method further comprises reporting an alarm based at least in part on said comparison of said first monitored value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic to the estimated value of said at least one system I/O performance characteristic.

201. A method of monitoring I/O resource utilization in an information delivery environment, comprising monitoring said I/O resource utilization at the logical volume level.

202. The method of claim 201, wherein said information delivery environment comprises delivery of continuous media data to a plurality of viewers from an information management system comprising a storage system, said storage system including said I/O resources and having at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices.

203. The method of claim 202, wherein said monitoring of said I/O resource utilization comprises monitoring a workload of said at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices at the logical volume level.